

The Center School Behavioral Threat Assessment Policy

As per P.L. 2022, c.83 (8/1/2022) – Development and adoption of a policy establishing a threat assessment team at each school by September of 2023.

Purpose - to provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in identifying students of concern, assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk, to prevent targeted violence in the school, and ensure a safe and secure school environment that enhances the learning experience for all members of the school community.

Threat assessment teams shall be multidisciplinary in membership and, to the extent possible, shall include the following individuals: a school psychologist, school counselor, school social worker, or other school employee with expertise in student counseling; a teaching staff member; a school principal or other senior school administrator; a safe schools resource officer or school employee who serves as a school liaison to law enforcement; and the school safety specialist, if that individual is not already part of the team, and additional school employees as appropriate.

The following behavioral threat assessment policy outlines The Center School threat assessment process which is a school safety assessment.

1) Threat:

- a. When a student makes a threat of harm to themselves, another student, staff member, family member, or other, a threat assessment will be conducted by The Center School's Threat Assessment Team immediately to determine the nature and substantiveness of the threat, and to manage the threat.
- b. The threat made may be communicated via any thoughts or intent or action: verbal, written, drawn, acted out, gestured, posted on social media or other electronic nature, or possession of a weapon.

2) Steps: Normal School Hours:

- a. The offending student shall be immediately separated from the possible target of the threat and the student population and supervised by student support personnel or staff while the investigation takes place.
- b. The principal, or other supervisor in his absence, shall immediately notify the Executive Director of the threat and the activation of the threat assessment team to begin the investigation.
- c. If deemed necessary, local law enforcement will be alerted.
- d. The offending student shall be interviewed about the threat by the administration and/or counseling staff and supervisor (members of the Threat Assessment Team).
- e. All staff, students, and other witnesses to this threat shall be interviewed by members of the Threat Assessment Team.
- f. All potential targets or victims and concerned parties shall be interviewed by members of the Threat Assessment Team.
- g. The Threat Assessment Team members involved in the investigation of all threats shall include, and may not be limited to:

- i. The initial staff member hearing / uncovering the threat (or receiving the threat complaint from a student).
 - ii. School Principal.
 - iii. The student's assigned counselor.
 - iv. School BCBA.
 - v. School student services support supervisor.
 - vi. Any other administrator available in lieu of Principal's absence.
 - vii. Any other staff member familiar with the student and who may be able to give behavioral history, or have had behavioral experience with that student.
- h. After the necessary interviews of the offending student and any witnesses or possible targets are completed, a decision shall be made by the team as to whether the threat was transient or substantive (credible).
- i. If the threat is deemed **transient**, the following steps will be done:
 - i. A completed Threat Assessment Report on the incident.
 - ii. Therapeutic intervention with the offending student.
 - iii. Contact made with parents / guardians to inform them of the incident and subsequent interventions by the school's therapeutic staff. Contact should be made via phone call as soon as possible after the incident investigation is complete and before the student goes home for the day.
 - iv. Contact and follow up with all possible targets, victims, witnesses to satisfy any fears or concerns.
 - v. The student may return to class after the investigation is completed or may remain supervised alone for therapeutic rapport for the remainder of the school day.
 - vi. The Threat Assessment Team and /or Principal shall immediately inform the Executive Director of the outcome of the investigation.
- j. If the threat is deemed **substantive (credible)**:
 - i. The offending student will continue to be supervised by the appropriate staff, apart from the student/staff general population.
 - ii. Immediate contact via phone will be made with parents/ guardians for notification of the incident.
 - iii. Contact will be made to local law enforcement if deemed necessary.
 - iv. Parents /guardians will be required to come to the school immediately for a meeting with the administration, instructions for possible psychological clearance protocols, and to transport the student home.
 - v. Should contact fail and parents / guardians not be reached because of no response, the following steps will be taken:
 - 1. All student contacts on file will be called.
 - 2. If none of the listed contacts respond, 911 will be called.
- k. Psychological Clearance:
 - i. If the student is considered unsafe to themselves or others, the family will be required to obtain a psychological clearance from a medical professional before returning to school. The appropriate paperwork for this process will be handed

to the parents/guardians at the time of the meeting when they come to the school to transport their child home the day of the incident.

- ii. Upon obtaining the psychological clearance signed by the medical professional, the parents/guardians must contact the school administration to inform them of the completed clearance and make an appointment for a "Re-Entry Meeting" with the administration **BEFORE** sending their child back to school. **No student will be permitted to re-enter the school after being sent out for a clearance without this re-entry meeting.**
- iii. Both parents/guardians, AND the student must attend the re-entry meeting.
- iv. At the meeting school threat assessment team members will develop a safety plan with the parents and student that reduces risk and addresses student needs.

3) After School Hours:

- a. Any threats reported to or by school staff, students, family members, and /or administration after school hours must be shared immediately with the school's Executive Director.
- b. The Executive Director shall then notify the principal and threat assessment team members of the threat.
- c. A threat assessment shall be conducted with the available information received, and contact will be made with stakeholders in the investigation: possible targets/victims, family of the offending student, any witnesses reporting the incident, local law enforcement if deemed necessary, and any others who may be of assistance.
- d. A follow up meeting by the threat assessment team will be held the next day school is in session.